

REMARKS

The Office communication dated August 17, 2005 stated that Applicants' reply to the previous Office Action dated December 16, 2004 did not present arguments pointing out specific distinctions believed to render newly presented claims 22-28 patentable over the applied references. Applicant respectfully submits this Supplemental Response.

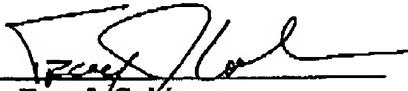
Claim 22 includes a "front portion having a face." The Hill reference does not teach these features in contradiction to the statement in the Office Action. The Office Action maintains in the rejection of claim 1 that the front face of block 12 is the "front portion." The Applicants respectfully submit construing the front face of block 12 to be the "front portion" leaves nothing to represent the "face" of the "front portion" required by claim 22. In other words, the front face of block 12 cannot simultaneously be both the "front portion" and its "face." Therefore, the Hill reference cannot anticipate claim 22.

Moreover, claim 22 includes the feature "wherein the middle portion extends along a longitudinal axis substantially perpendicular to said exterior wall a greater length than the front portion or the back portion." The Hill reference clearly teaches away from this feature of the claim. The Office Action construed Hill to teach the back portion as indicated by the lead line for numeral 12 in Fig. 1; the front portion as the front face of the block 12 and the middle portion as the chamfered portion 24. It is clear that the Hill reference teaches that the back portion extends along the length of the hose bib for a length greater than the middle portion 24. This directly teaches against the language of claim 22. Therefore, claim 22 is clearly novel over the Hill reference.

Claims 23-28 all depend from independent claim 22 and therefore include all of its features. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 23-28 are allowable over the references of record for at least the reasons provided with respect to independent claim 22.

For the reasons discussed herein and in the prior response, it is believed that claims 1-28 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney to address any outstanding matters concerning the present application.

Respectfully submitted

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